



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS: Food allergies are a growing public health concern. An estimated 15 million people in the United States have food allergies, including 6 million children under the age of 18. Furthermore, research shows that the prevalence of food allergies is increasing among children; and
- WHEREAS: Eight foods account for most food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish, and shellfish. Very small amounts of a food allergen can cause a reaction, which may result in hives, swelling of the throat, or respiratory distress; and
- WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies are the cause of more than 200,000 ambulatory-care visits a year involving children under 18. Eating away from home can pose an increased risk to people affected by food allergies, as research suggests that food served in restaurants or other food service establishments triggers almost half of fatal food allergic reactions; and
- WHEREAS: There is no cure for food allergies. Strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions to foods are important measures to prevent serious health consequences, including anaphylaxis, a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. Failure to promptly treat food anaphylaxis with epinephrine is a risk factor for fatalities and prompt administration is crucial to successfully treat anaphylactic reactions; and
- WHEREAS: Many organizations are dedicated to educating the general public, schools, and restaurants in Georgia communities about life-threatening allergic reactions, risk management procedures, and how to enact an emergency action plan. Food Allergy Research and Education is working to improve the quality of life and the health of individuals with food allergies, and to provide them hope through the promise of new treatments; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 14–20, 2017, as FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 29th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF